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July 6, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**TWO COLUMBUS MEN SENTENCED FOR PARTICIPATION
IN FALSE IDENTITY DOCUMENT SCHEMES**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that two individuals were sentenced late yesterday by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following their guilty pleas for participation in schemes to manufacture and sell false identification documents. DORILLIAN LOPEZ MENDEZ, age 27, Columbus, Indiana, was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment following his guilty plea to one count of possession of equipment intended to be used in the production of false identification documents. His brother, ALONSO LOPEZ MENDEZ, age 34, Columbus, Indiana, was sentenced to 11 months imprisonment following his guilty plea to one count of false representation of a social security number. This case was the result of an investigation by the Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General, the Seymour Police Department, the Columbus Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

An informant for the Seymour Police Department purchased false identification documents from an individual in Columbus, Indiana in early August 2005. Those documents included false and fraudulent social security cards and resident alien cards. That individual took the informant to a mobile home in Columbus where the false ID documents were made. The mobile home was the residence of DORILLIAN and ALONSO LOPEZ MENDEZ. Police officers then executed a search warrant at the mobile home where they seized over 350 identification documents, including blank and completed Social Security cards, Resident Alien cards and Mexican driver's license cards; they also seized numerous items used to manufacture the false ID documents, including typewriters, a printer/copier/scanner, a cutting table, and an electric heat sealer.

ALONSO LOPEZ MENDEZ used several of the false ID documents to obtain and maintain employment under a name other than his own, as well as to obtain a driver's license and a credit card.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Susan Heckard Dowd, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed two years supervised release on each of the defendants, following their release from imprisonment. The two brothers both entered the United States illegally and have been living here illegally. ALONSO LOPEZ MENDEZ, who has been in custody for the duration of his sentence, will be released to immigration officials today to face deportation proceedings. DORILLIAN LOPEZ MENDEZ faces deportation following his release from custody.

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